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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Electrification Administration
St. Louis 2, Missouri

HOW TO PUT ON
AN REA CO-OP QUIZ CONTEST

A quiz contest can provide both good entertainment and useful information. REA co-ops have found such contests very helpful in pepping up annual meetings as well as district and community meetings. A quiz contest can be put on early in the program, to put the audience in a good mood, or after the balloting, to fill in some of the time while ballots are being counted. Of course, it will have to be planned carefully if it is to be a real hit. Here are a few suggestions to aid entertainment committees in putting on a good quiz contest.

The Quiz Master

He can be old or young, man or woman, as long as he (1) has a sense of humor, (2) can talk readily while facing an audience, (3) can talk loud enough to be heard everywhere in the hall (at large gatherings a loud-speaker will help), and (4) will put enough life and fun into the quiz program so that the audience won't get bored.

The Contestants

They can be selected in advance or picked from the audience. If volunteers are called for, be sure there are a few people ready to pinch hit in case not enough volunteers can be found.

The nature of the quiz determines who may be contestants. It may be only for men or women or both, for boys or girls or both; or there may be no restriction whatever. There may be two teams of contestants, such as men against women, wives against husbands, boys against girls, adults against children, directors against rank-and-file members, one district against another, members against employees. The total number of contestants on the platform at any one time might be 4, 6 or 8. More than 8 is not practical.

Subjects for Questions

For an REA co-op quiz it is desirable that most if not all questions deal with subjects having to do with (1) rural electrification, (2) the co-op movement, and (3) the REA co-op itself. Of course, it is up to the committee or the Quiz Master to decide whether the quiz should include also a few questions on current events or other subjects familiar to radio quiz listeners.

(1) Rural electrification questions can be on kwh consumption or operating cost of appliances and equipment; on electrical terms; on percent of farms electrified in nation, state or area in 1935 and now; on facts concerning the national REA program; on the benefits of rural electrification to a rural community, to a rural school, to the average farm family.

(2) Questions dealing with the co-op movement can cover such items as co-op principles; types of co-ops which American farm people have found useful; the extent of the co-op movement in America; differences between an REA co-op and an ordinary power company.

(3) Questions dealing with the REA co-op itself can cover such items as financial or operating data; percentage of minimum users; percent of line loss; how bylaws provide for control of co-op by the members; how members can help their co-op; who owns the co-op.

It might be announced in advance, through the newsletter, that the quiz program will be based largely or entirely on "A Guide for Members of REA Cooperatives", or on the bylaws, or on this particular issue of the newsletter. This might induce some members to read such material a little more carefully. If the quiz is to be based on an issue of the newsletter, that issue should be prepared especially with this plan in mind.

Types of Question

Questions are usually arranged in the order of difficulty, starting with an easy one. An occasional trick question may add to the fun, but in general questions should be factual and deal with matters which a good REA cooperator ought to know. There are many different types of questions that can be used in a quiz contest. Among the more common ones suitable for an REA co-op meeting are:

- (a) Questions of definition.
- (b) Questions of comparison.
- (c) Questions asking for a list of things.
- (d) Questions on what to do.
- (e) Questions involving figuring of time, of performance or power use, or of cost.
- (f) True-or-false statements.
- (g) Choose-correct-word statements.

Examples illustrating these various types of question will be found at the end of this leaflet.

Scoring

The Quiz Master can do a better job quizzing if he has an assistant who acts as score-keeper. Answers can be scored (1) as right or wrong, or (2) by the point system.

(1) Right or Wrong Score. This is the simplest method of scoring. In case of a multiple question requiring several answers, the contestant does not score if he fails to answer the required number correctly. If this method of scoring is applied to a question which requires each contestant to guess or figure an amount, the one guessing the nearest to the correct figure gets the score.

(2) Point Score. This method of scoring is a little more complicated and definitely requires a score-keeper. An easy way to use this method is to give 10 points to each correct answer, 5 points if partially correct, 5 points for completing a partially correct answer, 0 points if answer is way off. In case of a multiple question, each item can be given a 10 point score or a score equal to 10 divided by the number of items.

Scoring can be on a percentage basis. In that case, each contestant or each team must have an equal chance to score 100 percent. In other words, the total number of points which a contestant or team can get if all questions are answered correctly should add up to 100 points. For example, each contestant or group might be asked a set of 5 questions, each with a maximum score of 20 points. The number of points allotted to each question may be varied, depending on how difficult the answer is. Thus, one question may be worth 10 points, another 20 points; but the possible total should still add up to 100 points.

Prizes

Contestants are likely to try harder if prizes are offered. These need not and should not be expensive. Small appliances make practical prizes; so do war stamps. Sometimes it is possible to get a few prizes donated.

Depending on the number of contestants and the nature of the quiz, there might be just one prize for the winning contestant, or a first and a second prize, or a prize for the top member of each team, or a prize for each member of the winning team. If each contestant who fails to win a prize is given a 100-watt bulb as a consolation prize, it will make for good feeling and will also make it easier to get people to volunteer as contestants.

Points to Keep in Mind

1. Select a good quiz master and score-keeper.
2. Publicize the quiz contest in advance.
3. Give the quiz master all the help he wants, so that he can put on a lively, entertaining show.
4. Provide for prizes.
5. Make sure you will get the desired number of contestants.
6. Select questions with a view to making the contest not only amusing but also educational.
7. Arrange questions in order of difficulty, starting with an easy one.

8. Whatever plan for scoring you decide to use, make sure it fits in with the types of question and the arrangement of contestants (as individuals or in opposing teams) you have in mind.

EXAMPLES OF QUESTIONS
SUITABLE FOR AN REA CO-OP QUIZ CONTEST

The following examples illustrate various types of question that can be used in a quiz contest. In working up your own quiz, remember that a little variety in form and subject matter will add interest. With the help of these examples and of the suggestions on subject matter given in this leaflet, you should be able to make up a set of questions to suit any occasion.

The answers given are not necessarily the only correct ones, especially in such things as safety rules, ways to help the cooperative, and uses of power to produce food.

A. Questions of Definition

1. Q. What is a watt?

A. A unit of measurement for electricity. 1 ampere of current at a pressure of 1 volt.

2. Q. What is a kilowatt?

A. 1000 watts. (1 1/3 hp)

3. Q. What is a kilowatt-hour?

A. The use of a kilowatt for one hour, or 100 watts for 10 hours, or any combination of hours multiplied by watts which equals 1000.

4. Q. What is an REA co-op?

A. A non-profit, rural community enterprise owned and controlled by farm people for the purpose of providing electric service to themselves with the help of REA.

5. Q. What is a co-op?

A. A business owned and controlled by the people who use its service, and operated by them according to cooperative principles.

B. Questions of Comparison

6. Q. Which would use more electricity: Three 75 watt bulbs burning for 2 hours or one 500 watt heater burning for one hour?

A. The 500 watt heater.

7. Q. Can you name three ways in which an REA co-op differs from a private-profit power company?

A. An REA co-op (1) is in business solely to provide service, (2) makes no profit, (3) is owned by the users, (4) is controlled by the users, (5) is interested in making rates as low as possible, (6) aims at area-wide service, (7) gives each member an equal vote, (8) pays no salaries to its directors and officers.

C. Questions Asking for a List of Things

8. Q. Can you name 4 jobs a portable small motor can do?

A. Run (1) churn, (2) grindstone, (3) corn sheller, (4) ice cream freezer, (5) sewing machine, (6) small wood saw, (7) concrete mixer, (8) cream separator, (9) small feed grinder.

9. Q. Can you name 3 of the 7 cooperative principles known as the Rochdale principles of cooperation?

A. (See page 19 of "A Guide for Members of REA Cooperatives")

10. Q. Can you name 4 good uses of electricity on the farm for increasing war food production? In each case explain why.

A. (1) Water pump. Saves time and labor in taking care of family and live stock needs. Makes garden watering possible.
(2) Pig brooder. Saves spring litters, which means raising more pork with fewer brood sows and therefore with less feed.
(3) Chick brooder. Saves more chicks and lets farmer sleep at night so he can work better next day.
(4) Milking machine. Cuts milking time and makes milking easier.
(5) Milk cooler. Keeps milk from spoiling in warm weather.
(6) Yard light. Makes a longer work day possible. Speeds up evening and morning chores.
(7) Portable motor. Saves lots of time and elbow grease.

11. Q. Can you name 4 different kinds of co-ops in existence in America?

A. (1) Electric co-ops, (2) co-op creameries, (3) co-op grocery stores, (4) gasoline co-ops, (5) farm supply co-ops, (6) credit unions, (7) telephone co-ops, (8) insurance co-ops, (9) freezer locker co-ops, (10) health co-ops, (11) egg and poultry marketing co-ops, etc.

D. Questions on What to Do

12. Q. Can you give 4 important safety rules for REA co-op members?

- A. (1) Buy only approved appliances.
(2) Have homemade equipment checked by a qualified person before using it.
(3) Have all wiring additions made by qualified persons only.
(4) Do not run extension cords under rugs, over nails or around pipes or radiators.
(5) Don't handle connected cords or appliances with wet hands or while standing in a wet place.
(6) Never touch an exposed wire unless you are absolutely sure that no current is going through it.
(7) Don't replace a blown fuse with anything except another fuse of the right size.
(8) In disconnecting an appliance, always pull on the plug, not on the cord.

13. Q. How can members help to keep the co-op's operating costs down? (Name at least two ways to help)

- A. (1) Report outages promptly. (2) Report any dangerous condition on line. (3) Discourage hunters from shooting at insulators. (4) Pay monthly service bills promptly.
(5) Read meter and send card in promptly (if self-reading is used). (6) Read meter, figure bill and mail in promptly (if self-billing is used). (7) Read newsletter, and send in items.

14. Q. Can you give 3 pointers on taking care of an electric iron?

- A. (1) Don't drop it, (2) don't leave it connected when not in use, (3) keep it clean, (4) let it cool before storing it, (5) pull on plug, not on the cord, when you disconnect it, etc.

E. Questions Involving Figuring

15. Q. For how long will 1 kwh operate (1) an electric clock?
(2) an electric iron? (3) a water pump supplying the house?
(4) a refrigerator?

- A. (See page 20 of "Guide for Members")
(1) 3 weeks. (2) 2 hours. (3) 2 days. (4) 15 hours.

16. Q. How far will 1 kwh go in the following farm jobs: (1) How many pounds of grain will it grind? (2) For how many days will it milk a cow? (3) How much firewood will it cut?
(4) How much hay will it hoist?

- A. (See page 21 of "Guide for Members")
(1) 100 pounds. (2) 20 days. (3) half a cord. (4) 2 tons.

17. Q. With average use, how many kwh a month does it take to operate (1) a radio? (2) a sewing machine? (3) a toaster? (4) a vacuum cleaner?
- A. (See page 35 of "Guide for Members")
(1) 8 kwh. (2) 1/2 kwh. (3) 3 kwh. (4) 2 kwh.
18. Q. How many kwh does it take to (1) brood 1 chick? (2) churn 100 pounds of butter? (3) separate cream from 1,000 pounds of milk? (4) mix 1 cubic yard of concrete?
- A. (See page 35 of "Guide for Members")
(1) 1/2 kwh. (2) 1 1/2 kwh. (3) 1/2 kwh. (4) 1/2 kwh.
19. Q. How much will it cost for electric current to milk 6 cows with a portable electric milking machine for 1 month, if the rate is 3¢ per kwh?
- A. (See page 36 of "Guide for Members")
1 1/2 kwh per cow per month means 9 kwh for 6 cows. At the 3¢ rate, it will cost 27 cents.
20. Q. If a farmer member of this cooperative uses 100 kwh a month, how much more would his bill be (within 25¢) for 200 kwh? 300 kwh?
- A. (See your rate schedule)

F. True-or-False Statements

21. Q. Is this statement true or false: It takes only 5 kwh of electricity to run a toolgrinder for 4 hours?
- A. False. It takes only about 1 kwh.
22. Q. Is this statement true or false: An REA co-op is owned by the board of directors?
- A. False. It is owned by all members, including the directors, but not by the directors alone.

G. Choose-Correct-Word Statements

23. Q. What is a three-way switch? Is it a hair-do, or an exchange, or a device for controlling lights, or a contraption used to shift trains from one track to another?
- A. A device for controlling lights.
24. Q. What is meant by a co-op principle? Is it the president of a co-op, or the money which a co-op has borrowed from REA, or the head of a school getting electricity from a co-op, or a basic rule of action for co-ops?
- A. A basic rule of action for co-ops.

